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Fifth Committee
Agenda item 116
Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman

Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2008-2009

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, in which it requested the Secretary-General to submit in off-budget years an outline of the proposed programme budget for the following biennium,

Reaffirming also section VI of its resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990,

Reaffirming further rule 153 of its rules of procedure,

Recalling its resolution 58/269 of 23 December 2003,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2008-2009[1] and the related recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

1. *Reaffirms* that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters;

2. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

3. *Reaffirms* that the proposed programme budget outline shall contain an indication of the following:

(a) A preliminary estimate of resources needed to accommodate the proposed programme of activities during the biennium;

[1] A/61/576.
[2] See A/61/615.

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(b) Priorities reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature;

(c) Real growth, positive or negative, compared with the previous budget;

(d) Size of the contingency fund expressed as a percentage of the overall level of resources;

4. *Also reaffirms* that the budget outline should provide a greater level of predictability of resources required for the following biennium and promote greater involvement of Member States in the budgetary process, thereby facilitating the broadest possible agreement on the programme budget;

5. *Further reaffirms* that the budget proposals of the Secretary-General should reflect resource levels commensurate with mandates for their full, efficient and effective implementation;

6. *Notes* that the budget outline is a preliminary estimate of resources;

7. *Invites* the Secretary-General to prepare his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 on the basis of a preliminary estimate of ____ million United States dollars at revised 2006-2007 rates;

8. *Decides* that the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 shall contain provisions for recosting on the basis of the existing methodology;

9. *Decides also* that the priorities for the biennium 2008-2009 shall be the following:

(a) Maintenance of international peace and security;

(b) Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences;

(c) Development of Africa;

(d) Promotion of human rights;

(e) Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts;

(f) Promotion of justice and international law;

(g) Disarmament;

(h) Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in view of his preliminary indicative estimates contained in the proposed budget outline, to reflect the priorities outlined in paragraph 9 above when presenting the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009;

11. *Decides* that the contingency fund shall be set at the level of 0.75 per cent of the preliminary estimate, namely at ___ million dollars, that this amount shall be in addition to the overall level of the preliminary estimate and that it shall be used in accordance with the procedures for the use and operation of the contingency fund;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review the experience of the utilization of the contingency fund and to report theorem to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session;

13. *Takes note* of the observation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in paragraph 9 of its report[2] on the experiment for a limited discretion for budgetary implementation;

14. *Recalls* section III of its resolution 60/283, and stresses that the experiment for a limited discretion for budgetary implementation shall not imply any changes to the provisions guiding the use of the contingency fund.